

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118130

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MPOL, TW

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EA/ROC STATUS REPORT

1. HIRC TOYS WITH HEARINGS ON TAIWANESE SELF-
DETERMINATION (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

AT A LUNCHEON LAST FRIDAY, HIRC STAFFER ED PALMER TOLD
HARVEY FELDMAN HIS COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING HEARINGS ON
TAIWANESE SELF-DETERMINATION. FELDMAN EXPLAINED THERE
WERE TWO EVENTS WHICH COULD BRING THE PRC RAPIDLY INTO
CONFRONTATION WITH TAIWAN: ROC DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR
WEAPON AND/OR A "UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE."
HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PEKING LOOKS VERY CAREFULLY FOR
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ANY SIGN OF U.S. BACKING FOR THE TAIWANESE INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT AND ARGUED THAT SUCH HEARINGS WOULD BE EXTREMELY
DANGEROUS TO U.S. CHINA POLICY. PALMER DID NOT SAY THE
IDEA WOULD BE DROPPED BUT AGREED OUR CONCERNS WERE APT
AND REASONABLE.

2. SENATE REPUBLICANS ON NORMALIZATION AND TAIWAN

(UNCLASSIFIED)

THE ATTACK ON ADMINISTRATION FOREIGN POLICY ISSUED LAST WEEK BY SENATE REPUBLICANS TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON CHINA

POLICY, ENDORSING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE PRC BUT NOT NORMALIZATION PER SE. THE WORDING ON TAIWAN AVOIDED SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE ROC OR THE DEFENSE TREATY SAYING:

"THE U.S. HAS A SPECIFIC LEGAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN. WHILE THE U.S. MAY SEEK TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC, IT MUST BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WILL PREVENT A MILITARY SOLUTION AND WHICH WILL PRESERVE WORLD RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S COMMITMENTS TO ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES. WE ARE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO TURNING OVER THE 19 MILLION (SIC) PEOPLE OF TAIWAN TO THE PRC."

3. NUCLEAR EXPORT LICENSE CASE (CONFIDENTIAL)

IN COMPLIANCE WITH A 1978 NON-PROLIFERATION ACT REQUIREMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MUST ACT THIS WEEK ON A LARGE NUMBER OF PENDING NUCLEAR EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING ONE FOR THE ROC COVERING THE REACTOR VESSELS FOR TAIWAN'S 5TH AND 6TH COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR

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POWER REACTORS. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL RECOMMEND NRC APPROVAL OF THIS LONG PENDING APPLICATION. IF NO RECOMMENDATION IS MADE, THE ACT REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT TO THE CONGRESS WHY THE LICENSE CANNOT BE ISSUED. THERE IS NO READY REASON AVAILABLE FOR NOT ACTING ON THE LICENSE REQUEST. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST MAJOR ROC NUCLEAR LICENSE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NRC IN TWO YEARS, AND THERE IS A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY IT MAY ATTRACT ATTENTION OR REQUIRE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

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